

Raisin Administrative Committee

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ADMINISTERING THE FEDERAL MARKETING
AGREEMENT AND ORDER REGULATING THE
HANDLING OF CALIFORNIA RAISINS

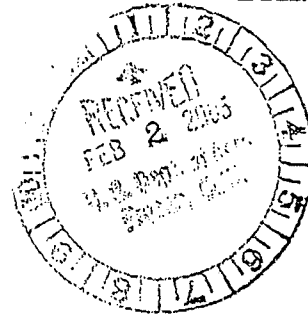
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February 1, 2005

Mickey Martinez, OIC
USDA Marketing Office F&V
Processed Products Branch
2202 Monterey St. Suite 102A
Fresno, CA 93721



Dear Mickey:

At a meeting of the Raisin Administrative Committee on January 27, 2005, the Committee discussed and voted to recommend a change in the U.S. Grades and Standards.

The definition of "TYPE I- Seedless Raisins" as currently defined in the Standards does not meet the current criteria used in the industry. Specifically, the term "vine-dried" when originally defined in the standards, assumed that a grape had been sprayed with a drying chemical or material in order to produce a raisin. This is no longer true. With the use of mechanical equipment and trellising techniques, drying grapes on the vine can be accomplished without the use of any agent. The Committee recognizes that not all vine-dried raisins are produced without a drying agent, therefore the recommendation adds another definition to help clarify or more accurately define the raisin being produced.

The Committee's recommendation is to add a definition of "vine-dried (without application of drying chemicals or materials)" to the current definitions as well as modifying the definition of Dipped, Vine-dried, or similarly processed raisins to include the statement "treated with drying chemicals or materials".

The recommended revised definition of TYPE I - Seedless Raisins is as follows:

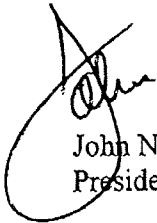
TYPE I - Seedless Raisins

- (1) Natural
- (2) Vine-dried (without the application of drying chemicals or materials)
- (3) Dipped, Vine-dried raisins treated with drying chemicals or materials or similarly processed raisins.

*all are abt
TYPE III*

The Committee understands that modification of these Standard requires informal rule making. Since the current definition of seedless raisins has created some issues with regards to identification of the product for consumers, this change should be made as soon as possible. Please take the necessary steps to expedite this change.

Thank you for your attention to this most pressing issue.



John N. Beck
President